(c) the progress of the registered cases and the action that has been contemplated against culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on theTable of the House.

Mongoose killing

357. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of mongoose hair was recovered recently just outside Delhi, as reported in the Media;

(b) if so, what punishment has been imposed by Government on mongoose poachers;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering discussion with the Education Department so as to put a ban on mongoose hairbrush in schools for painting;

(d) if so, by when such a ban would be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 29.1.2003 Gurgaon Police have seized about 25 kilograms of mongoose hair and arrested five persons under various provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Penal Code.

(c) and (d) *Vide* notification dated 30-9-2002, the protection status of mongoose has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Part II, Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Now there is complete ban on possession of mongoose hair articles except under ownership certificate from Chief Wildlife Warden of the State concerned. Also, in this regard District Magistrates and Inspectors of schools of all the districts in the country have been addressed to discourage the use of mongoose hair brushes in schools.

(e) Does not arise.